From Sunrise to Sunrise: A Skirmish in Japan and Carmen's V.I.L.E. Island Assault

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From Sunrise to Sunrise: A Skirmish in Japan and Carmen's V.I.L.E. Island Assault

by lefemmerouge

Summary

On two sides of the world, two groups face off against a legion of evildoers: Lapis, Peridot, Pumpkin, Stevonnie, and Bismuth in Japan, joined by Utena and Anthy, and Carmen, Adora, Pearl, Garnet, Amethyst, Julia, and A.C.M.E. agents assaulting V.I.L.E. Academy in the Canary Islands. While both groups face obstacles, can they defeat evil and restore balance to the world without creating... additional complications?

Notes

I am using my map for locations in this story. I used "Peri" rather than Peridot after the first paragraph because I think it should be pretty obvious I am talking about the same character. Also, this is what Lapis would call her, so, it fits with the story.

Comments are welcome and appreciated.

Update on 1/2/25: This fic was cross-posted on Squidge World with the name "From Sunrise to Sunrise: The Yokohama Skirmish and Carmen's V.I.L.E. Island Assault." The text was revised, with new wording, improved dialogue, and other changes to make the fic stronger. Those revisions have been added here.

See the end of the work for more notes

As the sun rose above the horizon, a warm light shined through the shoji screens. The faces of Lapis, Peridot, and Pumpkin had a yellow-orangish tint as a result. In another room, dabbled light touched the faces of Stevonnie and Bismuth. The bedroom containing the women of the house, as it could be called, was empty. Utena, Anthy, and Chu-Chu were early risers. They were cooking a huge breakfast for everyone. Anthy prepared steamed white rice (hakumai), while Utena put together a delicious miso soup with dashi soup stock, tofu cubes, chopped green onion, and some miso paste.

This recipe would be nothing like Steven's unhealthy "together breakfast" (waffles, whipped cream, popcorn, and maple syrup garnished with a strawberry) or Lars's purple ube roll. It would be something unique for the Gems and Stevonnie, although normal for house's usual occupants. Ceramic bowls, coupled with wooden chopsticks, were placed on woven wooden mats. Small vegetable side dishes, seasoned dried seaweed, and pickled vegetables, had been set out as well. The smells of the miso soup wafted around the house. It woke up Lapis with a start. She slipped out of Peri's embrace, who remained asleep as did Pumpkin.

She tip-toed down to the kitchen where she saw three smiling faces welcoming her. As Utena began to speak, Anthy spoke softly and calmly. "Hello, Ms. Lapis. It's a pleasure to see *you* this delightful morning. What would you like for breakfast? We have a wide selection here for you to choose from."

Lapis grinned back, thanking them for making this wonderful meal. She dug right in, almost immediately. She had never tasted anything *so delicious*. She and Peri had grown row after row off vegetables at their farm, like pumpkins, corn, and carrots. They had hoped to make them sentient (this did not work). But they rarely used this food for cooking. Instead, they ate awful junk food, or anything else, either one of them stole from the Beach House when no one was looking. This included Peri's snatching of Steven's clothes, when he wasn't looking, and wearing them. That was something that Lapis didn't do, as a matter of principle. On a physical level, Lapis didn't need to eat, but she liked to, not because it made her feel "weird" as Amethyst described it. Instead, it was, for her, fulfilling and made her feel better.

For her, eating served as a sort of stress reliever from everyday hardships. As she continued eating a tasty miso soup, especially enjoying the tofu chunks, Peri and Pumpkin came into the room. She didn't care if anyone found out about this "guilty pleasure" of hers. It was a sea change from how she had acted in Mystacor when fused with Stevonnie, and became Stevolinnie. Peri didn't tell anyone else about her love for food, at the time, and vowed to keep it a secret. Now that they were on Earth, Lapis wanted to be more open about their relationship and herself. She did not want to hide a part of her identity from her friends.

Seeing Lapis happily chow down the miso soup, a look of shock washed across Peri's lime green face. She didn't expect to see Lapis be so bold. She warned her of the possible consequences and worried about what would happen next. "Lapis!...I thought you said that you didn't want anyone to know about your love of food…Gems don't *need* to eat. Don't you remember?"

Snickering heartily, Lapis tussled Peri's messy pale chartreuse yellow hair. If she had been wearing her visor, her hair would have been more orderly. Despite what you could gather

from her usual appearances, she didn't wear the visor all day long. She only wore it when she needed to concentrate on the task ahead. She beamed at Lapis, calming her down. Her green eyes lovingly stared at Lapis's navy-blue eyes. Just then, Stevonnie and Bismuth came into the room. They astonished by the sight before them, despite what both of them knew about Lapis and Peri.

While the relationship between Lapis and Peri was obvious to any casual observer, Lapis eating food wasn't something either one of them predicted. Bismuth, still developing her friendship with these two Gems, didn't know what to say. Due to the confusion during the Gem War, neither Bismuth nor Lapis recalled their previous interaction. In fact, Bismuth had poofed Lapis during the Rebellion due to her alignment with Homeworld. This stopped her from being used for her "original purpose": to terraform the Earth to help turn the planet into a colony.

It led her to be imprisoned by Homeworld Gems inside a mirror for thousands of years, since she was mistaken for a Crystal Gem. She was left behind by retreating Homeworld Gems, only to be found by Pearl. She then stayed inside Pearl’s Gem until Steven set her free as his "Beach Summer Fun Buddy." Taking this into account, Stevonnie took the initiative and said something that brought up the obvious question: that Lapis liked food.

"Lapis, I *didn't know* you ate food, since it isn't necessary because of your Gem. *Why* didn't you tell me sooner? I thought Amethyst was the only one who loved food as much as me. Pearl and Garnet don't like consuming food, so it's great to have another friend that likes it too!"

While Stevonnie's comment embarrassed her, with part of her cyan blue cheeks turning dark blue, she snorted and cackled. She hugged Stevonnie back. She told them that she deeply appreciated their acceptance of her as a fellow being, and respecting her wants and desires. Peri decided to share her love for food too. She enjoyed the vegetable side dishes and pickled vegetables. She liked experiencing tastes she had never come across before. It surpassed eating ice cream, chips, or any of the junk food usually in the Beach House.

While Utena and Anthy offered Bismuth food, she politely declined their offer. Pumpkin sat patiently in the same room. She didn't need food to eat since she was a sentient creature created by Steven for a "good cause."

After finishing their meal and cleaning up the breakfast dishes, everyone, but Anthy and Chu-Chu, who went outside to pick vegetables from the garden, came into the ima. They sat on tatami mats around the small chabudai. The time to plan their next move was evident. Putting on her visor, Peri's hair became cone-shaped, ensuring the hair stayed of out of her eyes, like how other Peridots used their visors, from what she had observed. Rather than going down into the house's bunker, the surveillance footage on the robonoids *could easily* be accessed from her tablet.

Nothing seemed out of the ordinary. But she suggested a trip to the candy settlement to survey the surroundings for possible disturbances. Stevonnie, Lapis, and Bismuth were up to the challenge, as was Utena. She had one proviso: she would join them if she could wear a blindfold to shield her from the horror that she had seen within the candy settlement. Peri

accepted this. She tied a handkerchief around Utena's head, covering her eyes. As a skilled fighter who had beaten every single member of the student council at the Ohtori Academy, she could easily fight with her eyes covered, and closed.

Each of them suited up for their journey into Yokohama. Peri had a trash lid to float on and defend herself with and Stevonnie had a new sword. Utena held a katana in a sheath. Neither Lapis nor Bismuth had any weapons other than the innate abilities their gemstones possessed. Every one of them raced toward the city at breakneck speed, Peri rode on the trash lid with Stevonnie, Lapis with Bismuth, and Utena. The robonoids reported to Peri that a group of shadowy figures were in the distance. As she examined the footage closer, she determining the robonoids' observations were correct. The earth began to rumble and shake. She shouted. "Everyone, get ready for battle! The fight is coming to us!"

Standing in front of them was a Spanish man, five feet three inches tall, dressed in a black stealth suit, wearing tunneling gloves, and with a tan skin complexion. Nicknamed "The Human Mole" or "El Topo," as he called himself, Antonio faced them. About to pounce upon Lapis, Pumpkin growled and barked, and jumped into the air. Her tail-stem whipping him in the face, giving him a rash, and she bit him with all her strength. Even El Topo couldn’t face a being like her, falling to the ground in defeat. As he crawled away, tending to his wounds, his oft partner, Le Chevre, a French man with dark skin, wearing a black stealth suit, also known as the Human Goat, took his place.

Tigress, Paper Star, Silky Snapper, and a legion of henchmen joined him. Although it seemed that the Gems and their friends were outnumbered, Peri had one trick up her sleeve. While her robonoids moved to safety, her green attack drones approached, controlled by her tablet. She aimed their laser cannons at the evildoers and fired a barrage, causing them to scatter. While Le Chevre did his best to protect himself and his partner, El Topo, from the incoming laser blasts, Paper Star, a Japanese teenager, ran full speed ahead toward Peri.

Using her trash can, she deflected the twirling origami stars thrown at her, although she couldn't do much more. Seeing her in trouble, Lapis used her Gem powers to push Paper Star away, making her paper soggy and heterochromic hair (half black, half white) drip with water. Angrily, her black eyes stared at Lapis, annoyed she had been defeated so easily, even though this light-composed being was unlike anything she had clashed with in the past. She lay in the dirt, growling like an irritated house cat.

With El Topo injured and Le Chevre pinned down by the attack drones, only Silky Snapper, Tigress, and the henchmen remained. A bit like El Topo, Tigress, an American in her late 20s or early 30s, with white skin and a cat suit with black and green accents and orange stripes, could ruthlessly attack anyone with razor-sharp claws attached to her gloves. Putting on her night vision goggles, she approached Utena, who seemed like an easy mark because of her blindfold. But she guessed wrong. Sensing her movement, Utena went on the offensive. She aggressively sliced Tigress’s claws.

While she could easily fight someone like Carmen, she had never faced someone as determined. Although her hands were hurting from the slices by the katana, she continued fighting. Thinking she had the advantage, the pinkish blade of Stevonnie's straight short sword struck her left glove, while she attempted to fend off Utena's katana with her right

glove. She didn't anticipate Bismuth sneaking up behind her and knocking her out cold with her arm that had turned into a hammer. Lapis proceeded to freeze and imprison Tigress in ice.

The V.I.L.E. operatives were on a losing streak. Only Silky Snapper remained. She moved headfirst with her henchmen. Unlike Le Chevre, El Topo, Paper Star, or Tigress, she didn't have any unusual abilities or strengths. As this legion of evildoers advanced, Peri threw her trash can lid like a frisbee, hitting the henchmen in their heads, causing them to fall to the ground and lose consciousness. Silky dodged the lid and took out her net gun. She shot it at them. Bismuth saved everyone by transforming one of her arms into scissors, cutting through the net. She used the other arm to incapacitate Silky. Like with Tigress, Lapis froze her in ice, and did the same with Paper Star. Only Le Chevre and El Topo remained. The attack drones ended their attack and attempted to surround them. Taking this as an advantage, El Topo and Le Chevre ran toward their foes. Moving the drones away, Peri thought she'd give Lapis a chance to fend them off.

Using her ability to control water, she struck back, chuckling with delight. Soon, a wounded El Topo and Le Chevre looked in shock at two beings approaching. They were water clones that had the same strength and abilities as them! As both evildoers tried to throw punches. These beings blocked them at every turn. After deciding to work together, the water clones began to falter, breaking apart and shattering into thousands of pieces. El Topo and Le Chevre approached Lapis and Peri with malevolent grins on their faces. Both seemed doomed. Once again, Pumpkin saved the day. Launching through the air, her two-pumpkin seed-eyes concentrated on her target. Biting an injured El Topo, hurting him once more, her tail-stem slapped Le Chevre in the face. When he tried to grab her stubby legs, she pushed him onto the dirt. Neither of these evildoers could believe *a sentient pumpkin* had beaten them. They were dazed from the fight.

Although injured, El Topo and Le Chevre tried to get up, and ready themselves to attack. Lapis, tired from fighting them, angrily bound their arms in ice shackles. Peri took off their special gloves. Bismuth struck them both on the head with her hands, which had turned into hammers, making them fall to the soil with a slump. Unfortunately, the hot sun, even in this April weather, began melting the ice which Lapis had used to imprison some of them. The henchmen seemed to be waking up. In a striking coincidence, Anthy walked beside Utena, asking her about the fight. Seeing all the people lying comatose in the surrounding area, she exclaimed. "Oh my!"

After Utena and Lapis informed her of the situation, she made a momentous decision: she would use her ability to transform others so she could tie up the evildoers. The ropes she was able to summon bound the interlopers together, strong enough to prevent anyone from breaking through, and carrying with them a small electric shock. Drained from this use of energy, she collapsed into Utena's arms.

With the battle won, Pumpkin excitedly ran up to Lapis and Peri, lovingly licking them with her tongue made of pumpkin guts. Both returned the fondness, rolling with her in the dirt in joy, singing in unison: "We love you Pumpkin! You are *the best thing* that ever happened to us! We couldn't live without you!" Joining in the fun, Stevonnie played with Pumpkin, which respected them as much as Lapis and Peri did.

Not wanting to see this display of love, Bismuth walked away and searched for the nearest warp pad back to Beach City. She wanted to rejoin Greg, Lars, and the Off Colors, or even see the concert of Sadie Killer and the Suspects. Stevonnie, on the other hand, texted Carmen about what had happened, who responded shortly thereafter. "Carmen, we got 'em. Mission accomplished. Hope your operation is going smoothly."

Carmen texted back. "Thanks, Stevonnie. We are approaching V.I.L.E. Island right now and are about to commence the sneak attack. I'll have some A.C.M.E. agents pick up those…vile people, haha, so they can be interrogated."

Stevonnie responded. They wrote, "Carm, that sounds great. Best of luck!"

Carmen sent one short text in response: "Thanks! Gotta go!"

At 3 or 4 A.M. in the morning, A.C.M.E. helicopters approached the drop site on V.I.L.E. Island. This island, within the Canary Islands, had been electronically cloaked from GPS signals. Carmen, Pearl, Adora, Garnet, Julia, and a host of other agents were ready for combat. They could be helped by Player and the Chief, virtually, if needed. In the meantime, Amethyst and A.C.M.E. agents walked in the darkness.

Suddenly, group A, composed of Carmen, Pearl, Adora, Garnet, and A.C.M.E. agents, parachuted out of the helicopter. Julia and other agents, composing group B, parachuted out of another.

Since there were two major buildings, each group took one at a time. At the front of group A, Pearl summoned her spear and shot a burst of energy into the roof of the academy's main building, allowing them to slip in. As group B descended, Amethyst waited for them on the roof, with her squad of A.C.M.E. agents. She busted the building's roof, and the team dropped inside.

Wishing them well, she led her team to retrieve data files housed in the basement below the main building of the V.I.L.E. Academy. As alarms went off, an announcement blared so loud that even those on the African coast, part of the Northern African Republic (N.A.R.), probably could hear it: "The academy is under attack. This is not a drill. Please take defensive measures. Repel the intruders at all costs!"

Pearl’s energy wave caused the wires to spark and created some smoke. Group A prepared itself for combat. Out of the smoke stepped Coach Brunt, a white-skinned Texas woman in a black, green, and grey tracksuit, who towered at six feet and two inches. She was flanked by the Cleaners and a legion of V.I.L.E. students.

She grumbled that Black Sheep has gone "too far" this time and ran toward them. Before Brunt could lay a hand on Carmen, Garnet stepped in and blocked her punches, serving as a worthy adversary. As both fought, the Cleaners and the V.I.L.E. students approached the rest of the group. Pearl, Adora, and Carmen took defensive stands behind a row of A.C.M.E. agents, who shot a row of bullets from their sleeping gas rifles. Their projectiles downed these evildoers one by one, causing them to fall to the floor. The Cleaners, seeing this display, retreated down the corridors, hoping to fight another day.

Brunt felt she had the upper hand against Garnet. Suddenly she felt a bullet from one of the sleeping gas rifles strike her. As a muscular and large woman, it had no effect, her green eyes fixed on Carmen. She sprinted in her direction, with the A.C.M.E. agents' sleeping gas bullets flowing into her white skin, but *not* causing her to slow down. She stood before Carmen, ready to crush her in one blow, to give her one last hug of death, like she tried to do in Poiters. As the A.C.M.E. agents cowered in fear, Pearl summoned a loaded shotgun from her Gem. It was filled with armor-piercing bullets. She fired the weapon with deadly accuracy.

The shotgun's recoil caused her to fly into the wall. The projectiles struck Brunt squarely in the back. The shells went through her spine and shattered it. She fell, howling in agony. Pearl approached her with a scowl.

"Big Texan, how do you like that pain? You can experience the suffering *you caused* Carmen first-hand. Your strength and endurance can't save you this time. It's time for you to stop hurting people on this blue planet!"

As Brunt's green eyes looked up, Pearl summoned a potted plant from her gem, and threw it at this evildoer's head, which knocked her unconscious. Her dyed green hair laid unmoving on the tile. While Adora was astounded at its intensity, Garnet, Carmen, and the rest of their group never thought that Pearl would do something like that in a million years. They were standing in complete shock. In contrast, Adora told Pearl that what she did looked "cool" and showed her bravery in the face of extreme danger. With her cheeks turning light blue, Pearl hugged Adora, glad to have such a great friend. Carmen appreciated their closeness, even though she didn't know what to make of it. She wanted their group to continue onward. She shouted, "Let's move!" leading the A.C.M.E. agents, and rest of the group, down the hallway, which sputtered with electric light.

Meanwhile, Julia and the A.C.M.E. agents, group B, had problems of their own. As the group fanned out, Mime Bomb approached them. He acted like he was an innocent bystander who "happened" to be there. Not believing this, the agents raised their sleeping gas rifles and shot him in the chest. Mime Bomb tumbled. His red hair touched the linoleum with a thud. He had been no match for this group. Creeping down the building's passages, not a soul lurked except for one: a six-foot-tall Egyptian woman named Countess Cleo. Her green eyes stared them down and she asked them why they had invaded the V.I.L.E. Academy.

Julia giggled as A.C.M.E. agents stood behind her. Their sleeping gas rifles were at the ready. Although she was shorter than the Countess, she stepped toward her in stride. Her black eyes centered on the evildoer in front of her. With her short-cut black hair shining in the light, with a blueish tint, she demanded that the Countess surrender herself or suffer the consequences. Thanks to her slender build and physical abilities, she could easily stand against any foe.

Although the Countess could easily identify stolen objects which were valuables or forgeries, she didn't have any specific abilities or strengths. As a result, submission to them seemed to be her only option. As she started to surrender, a middle-aged Japanese man, dressed in a bluish-grey haori, medium grey trousers, and sandals suddenly appeared at the door. As the A.C.M.E. agents prepared to shoot him, he rushed in, and with one blow the Countess lay un-moving, although not dead. He approached an amazed Julia and fellow agents, wondering

why their group had come onto the academy's grounds. To bring him up to speed, Julia blurted out something that piqued his interest.

"We are here because Carmen Sandiego came to us with some of her friends and we are collaborating together to bring down V.I.L.E. once and for all. What about you?"

This man was Shadowsan and he respected her honesty. As he served as Carmen's secret informant inside V.I.L.E., he gladly offered his services to help them. Going together into a dark passageway, all of them raced toward the V.I.L.E. Academy's basement, with Shadowsan setting a timer so the smaller building would explode.

Amethyst and her team of A.C.M.E. agents had reached their destination. Servers lined the walls, and a huge control panel sat in the middle of the room. At first, no one seemed to be in sight. But soon three figures stepped out of the shadows: Dr. Maelstrom and The Cleaners. The latter were otherwise known as Boris and Vlad, wearing greyish green shirts and pants held up by black belts. While the pale skin and white hair of Maelstrom, a middle-aged man, could be seen in the light, the Cleaners easily blended in, rushing toward Amethyst.

The A.C.M.E. agents instinctively discharged their sleeping gas rifles, slowing down these two men. Amethyst's energized whip with a violet hue stopped and immobilized them. Maelstrom approached, towering above Amethyst at five feet, ten inches tall, and wearing his black blazer. "Very impressive, my purple-skinned friend. But you *cannot* win against us this time. I will stop you in your tracks, intruder."

She demanded to know what the weapon would do. Maelstrom refused to answer. He buckled when she threatened to shoot him with it. He admitted that it could hypnotize anyone to do their bidding. This gave Amethyst a brilliant idea. She pointed it at Maelstrom, ordering the A.C.M.E. agents to hold him down. "You may have thought that you could defeat us, but you are wrong. You are evil and *we are good*. You see, good will always triumph…because evil is dumb!"

A surge of energy collided with his body. He writhed in agony at its effect. As her first order, she *demanded* he retrieve the data files from the servers. When Boris and Vlad stood up, attempting to fight her, she tied them together with her whip and shot the gun at them. Both were told to help Maelstrom with his task. Hearing footsteps nearby, she raised her weapon and the A.C.M.E. agents readied themselves. Out of nowhere, she heard the cry of "Amethyst!" Opening the door, she saw Julia, whose fair skin complexion, with freckles, shined in the light. She breathed a sigh of relief. The group of fellow agents entered the data storage room, with Shadowsan in tow, hoping to leave as soon as possible.

The lights flickering, group A walked carefully, hoping to avoid any more foes. The voice of Dr. Saira Bellum could be heard on the loudspeaker, laughing maniacally. She declared that *nothing* could stop V.I.L.E. and that all of them would meet their doom. In a remote area of the academy's main building, Bellum, an Indian woman with a bushy white mohawk, stared at a screen with her teal-colored goggles, and wore her trademark lab coat. She pressed a button and a series of drones flew out of the room. She tracked their progress with the facility's security cameras. Armed with mini-crackle rod cannons, the drones sped down the corridor.

Tentatively stepping forward, the group was caught off guard by the fleet of drones. Even though the A.C.M.E. agents tried to fight back, they were gravely injured. Only Carmen, Pearl, Adora, and Garnet remained, and were surrounded by flying drones. Carmen feared that asking Player for help would allow V.I.L.E. to track his signal and lead to his death. Texting Peri in Japan, to ask for help, crossed her mind, but this thought dissipated when the left side wall blew up.

Out stepped Amethyst, Julia, Shadowsan, and a slew of A.C.M.E. agents. Bellum did not expect this. Their presence completely caught her off guard. Amethyst snickered in delight and spoke to the camera. "Hey, man, you can't do this to my friends. You gonna get *shut down* by the B-Squad!"

Her super-energized whip flailed every which way. Some drones were entangled. Others were slashed by her whip. In tandem, Shadowsan flew through the air, gracefully slashing apart drones with his samurai sword. While Julia and the A.C.M.E. agents raised their weapons, the smoke cleared to reveal every drone smashed apart in the hall. Bellum's cry of distress could be heard over the intercom. She was shocked that her creations had been destroyed so easily.

As the electricity of the building continued to spark, the island's electric grid shut down, disabling the island's electronic cloaking. Immediately, Player could triangulate Carmen’s position in the V.I.L.E. Academy. Flabbergasted, he called Carmen. "Red, I got your GPS location on the island. I am *really confused* because I thought V.I.L.E. blocked all GPS signals coming out of there. Can you tell me what’s going on?"

Carmen told him. "Thanks for calling. I think the power here shorted out. We've knocked out or incapacitated almost everyone except Dr. Bellum. We've almost won, I'm happy to report!"

He replied. "Red, best of luck because I can't help you directly if the power is out on the island. Even so, keep me posted!"

She said one last thing to him. "Will do!"

Walking down the dimly lit corridor the group approached an open door. Slowly opening it, a huge explosion destroyed it, throwing everyone back. When the dust cleared, Dr. Bellum stood before them with a crackle rod in her hands, telling them to "die" because V.I.L.E. would never be defeated, not even by them. As she charged up the weapon, Pearl summoned a yellow pages phone book, throwing it in the air. Not dodging the incoming projectile, the book bumped her temple and she plunged. She made a huge thump when she hit the floor.

Every single V.I.L.E. operative, whether in the Canary Islands or in Yokohama, Japan, had been defeated. All those involved agreed to round up these evildoers and gather as much information as possible. The team in Japan, consisting of Lapis, Peri, Pumpkin, Stevonnie, and Anthy, remained near the candy settlement. They could only report their observations, since V.I.L.E. had come on a mission to the country but did not have a base there from what they could gather. Those on V.I.L.E. island had a different situation. Data files were in their possession. However, one commonality brought them together: the holding of V.I.L.E.

operatives, whether regular agents, like Paper Star and Le Chevre, or academy faculty, like Coach Brunt and Dr. Maelstrom. All were in their custody.

Talking with each other, both teams agreed to evacuate all the V.I.L.E. personnel to a secure location in the northern reaches of Siberia, within Western Russia, due to its proximity to the Galaxy Warp in the Tunguska Sea. In the meantime, those on V.I.L.E. Island would sweep the facility for any important materials, then destroy it. This was meant to ensure that such a heinous organization would never return.

In order to ensure these evildoers would listen, Amethyst used Maelstrom's hypnosis gun to convince them to get board A.C.M.E. helicopters, which had been awaiting their departure. Garnet, Pearl, and Adora went along with them, to ensure that these V.I.L.E. operatives didn't attempt any *funny business.* Another helicopter carried the wounded agents back to A.C.M.E. headquarters. In the meantime, Carmen, Julia, and Amethyst stayed on the island, assisted by Shadowsan and a legion of loyal A.C.M.E. agents, waving goodbye to their fellow comrades-in-arms.

As the helicopters sped away, The Chief and Player virtually collaborated in order to return electric power to the island. The lights of the Academy hummed once more. With the electrical connection restored, the transfer of information from V.I.L.E. mainframes to secure A.C.M.E. servers was possible. As a result, the seized data could be combed through by veteran agents and Player. This shadowy agency wanted a continued partnership, rather than being at each other's throats when their goals were the same. Not completely trusting them, Player transferred a copy of the data to his computer, where he could look through it *on his own*.

Walking through the building, Julia had a bright idea. What if they created a museum of V.I.L.E., to showcase the organization for *historical value*? Carmen appreciated this idea. Amethyst felt it was too boring. Shadowsan wanted to destroy the whole complex, wiping it off the face of the planet. He knew, better than anyone that underground cells of V.I.L.E. remained across the Earth. This meant that their work wasn't over. These operatives could strike at any time and cause havoc. He stated this openly.

"While I appreciate your idea of creating a museum, I *worry* that since V.I.L.E. operatives remain across the world, whether hidden in Western Brazil, the Australian Islands, the Congoan Republic, or the Central European Republic, any of them could take control of what we recover and reconstitute themselves. We may have captured their leaders, but there are still sleeper cells ready to strike when given the order."

Despite the risk outlined by Shadowsan, the Chief enthusiastically supported Julia’s proposal, telling her that *she'd back it 100%*, even using A.C.M.E. funds. As Shadowsan moaned about this decision. Amethyst resigned herself to it. From then on, their motley group had a different mission: to gather materials for the new museum, in a location to be determined. Julia would be the curator. Possibly, Carmen would have a role.

In the meantime, the fate of the captured V.I.L.E. operatives still had to be decided, apart from being sent to a secure location in Siberia, where it was mid-morning. Adora, who had been listening to their conversation through her earpiece, thanks to Carmen who had linked her in, floated an idea. They could follow Etheria's example by putting the former members

of V.I.L.E. on trial just as the Princesses had done with former members of the Horde, after their victory. A.C.M.E. *tentatively considered* her suggestion but reminded her that unlike on other planets, the court system wasn't under their control. As a result, the evildoers might not get the deserved level of justice.

Carmen, Julia, Amethyst, and Shadowsan sat together, watching the sun rise over V.I.L.E. Island. North of them, in Siberia, A.C.M.E. agents, Adora, Pearl, and Garnet could see the light of mid-morning. In Yokohama, Japan, Stevonnie, Lapis, Peridot, Anthy, and Utena watched the expeditious approach of evening. In Beach City, Bismuth slept inside the Beach House after hanging out with Lars and the Off Colors. She hoped to see Sadie Killer and the Suspects in concert the following day. While the course ahead was not completely certain, all of them would, without a doubt, stick together, even with all the the challenges which remained ahead...

End Notes

A few pages on The Spruce Eats, like "How to Prepare a Traditional Japanese Breakfast," "Japanese-Style Steamed Rice," and "Miso Soup With Tofu," along with the Peridot, Bismuth, Pumpkin, Connie's Sword, A Single Pale Rose, and Lapis Lazuli pages on the Steven Universe Wiki, the Julia "Jules" Argent, El Topo, Le Chevre, Paper Star, Tigress, Coach Brunt, Mime Bomb, Dr. Saira Bellum, Professor Gunnar Maelstrom, Shadowsan, V.I.L.E., and V.I.L.E. Academy pages on the Carmen Sandiego wiki, and the Anthy Himemiya page on the Revolutionary Girl Utena wiki. The quote of "You may have thought that you could defeat us, but you are wrong. You are evil and we are good. You see, good will always triumph…because evil is dumb!" by Amethyst is a callback to the quote by Dark Helmet in Spaceballs, "So, Lone Starr, now you see that evil will always triumph, because good is dumb," as I reversed it. I also used the Time and Date Converter and the Time Difference Calculator on timeanddate.com to ensure I had the right times of day for the places in this story, especially in the last paragraph.

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